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Dear GMCS Parents,

We look forward for the opportunity to resume school this fall and hope that we are able to see as many of our students back in our school buildings as soon as possible. We know some people are hesitant about schools opening again, but I want you to know that we are taking significant steps to prepare and maintain a safe environment for students. Our schools will be more sanitary and safe from germs, bacteria and viruses than ever before with new technology, significantly increased cleaning of the buildings and busses, and the implementation of social distancing requirements that we are putting in place for everyone in our school buildings.

As you may have heard, Governor Lujan-Grisham has recently given specific requirements for us to start school in the fall. We are utilizing these requirements to create guidance for our GMCS schools. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we waited for this State guidance and clarifications so that we can now prepare and release information about the coming school year. While some restrictions continue to evolve, we are committed to helping families and providing guidance as we all learn new social interaction practices. The Governors current requirements for reentry are outlined below.

First and foremost, it is widely known that most students, and adults, need face-to-face instruction to get the most productive education. Online learning simply cannot provide the level of learning to most students that can be gained when students physically communicate and interact in a structured classroom environment. We hope you strongly consider allowing your students to participate in the face-to-face instruction time that will be allowed for a portion of each school week. The information below and further information being sent to you next week will hopefully give you some reassurance that your child is safe at school. After reviewing the information you will be receiving over the next week about school resuming in GMCS, if you still do not feel comfortable with your student returning to school then we will provide a remote learning option for you.

Please keep in mind for those considering keeping their students home fulltime that the commitment to maximizing learning solely at home will require an added level of supervision and commitment on the family's parts to help their student keep up with their assignments, focus for those school hours

each day on their school work, and to work around the delays and inefficiencies with technology in our communities. In addition, for some older and those younger aged students, it will of course require supervision of their students for the hours required to complete school. Further information will be given about your remote learning options in the near future.

The following information will outline what Governor Lujan-Grisham is currently requiring for schools to reopen and then you will find some of the details of what school will look like in the fall for our students who are physically attending school. Please be aware that in the near further guidance will be given to you about our schools reopening and that information and requirements may change at the state level and this may result in GMCS needing to change its plan.

Thank you for your support of GMCS and we look forward to serving your students again this fall.

Respectfully,



Mike Hyatt

State Requirements for Reentry per Governor Lujan-Grisham:

Requirements for Reentry

NMPED's Reentry Guidance provides considerations, recommendations, and best practices to encourage a safe and successful school year. The following are important minimum requirements for all reentry.

The eight minimum requirements for reentry are:

- 1 To begin, all districts and schools across the state will be able to operate strictly according to hybrid guidelines. The Department of Health and Medical Advisory Team will regularly assess rates of the spread of COVID-19. Districts and schools will then follow the appropriate guidelines based on the designated safe reentry category.
- 2 Schools must participate in a surveillance and rapid response testing program for all staff.
- 3 Schools must adhere to the social distancing requirements of their designated category.
- 4 Schools should avoid large group gatherings.
- 5 Face coverings are required for all students and staff except while eating, drinking and exercising, with limited exceptions for students or staff who have medical reasons for not being able to wear a mask or face shield.
- 6 All staff must be screened on a daily basis, including a temperature check and review of potential symptoms. All sites must work with state and local health officials to have a plan for contact tracing. While not required, this is also recommended for students.
- 7 For transportation, all staff and students must wear face shields or masks. In addition:
 - a. A maximum of two students may sit together on a bus seat.
 - b. Schools in the yellow category should take all reasonable steps to limit bus seats to one student to the best of their ability.
- 8 Meals must be provided to students during in-person instruction and remote learning.

COVID-19 Safe Operating Categories

Each school district and charter school shall follow guidelines for reentry based on the public health conditions.

	REMOTE	HYBRID	FULL REENTRY
REENTRY GUIDELINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students engage in remote learning. Limited small groups (special education, some K-3 students) eligible for in-person instruction if feasible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of students in the building at any time is capped by the number that can be accommodated while adhering to at least six feet of social distancing or 50% classroom capacity level. Students not in the building engage in remote learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students eligible to return five days per week.
INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL	<p>REMOTE LEARNING</p> <p>Districts and schools should use CARES Act money or other funds to ensure that each student has a digital device and support for connectivity in the home in order to be able to provide a robust online learning program in the event of a closure. <i>See Supporting Teaching and Learning for more guidance.</i></p>	<p>HYBRID LEARNING</p> <p>Combination of some in-person days and some online days (<i>see Supporting Teaching and Learning for examples</i>).</p> <p>Traditional learning can occur if six foot social distancing is strictly adhered to.</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL LEARNING WITH ENHANCED PREVENTATIVE MEASURES</p> <p>All students are eligible to return to the building. Social distancing is practiced to the greatest extent possible. Preventative measures, including masks and temperature screenings, are recommended. Group activities are minimized.</p>

GMCS Initial Information for Reentry:

- Students will physically go to school 2 days per week on either Monday and Tuesday or Wednesday and Thursday. The days your student attend will be determined by the student's last name. Some adjustments will be made for students with differing last names in the same home. We want to ensure that siblings attend on the same school days to help with family's schedules. We will try to be as nimble as possible for when the Governor declares the schools in NM to change operating category to "Green" or "Red" outlined above.
- Students and staff will be required to wear masks and practice social distancing per state requirements. School building traffic and classroom environments will also be set up to maximize

social distancing. (For example, students will sit 6 feet apart in class, traffic in hallways and lunch lines will have 6 foot distance markings, etc.)

- At school, temperature checks will be taken where possible each day for student and staff. We will also ask students to be checked by families for fever and other COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school. Please keep your student home if they exhibit currently recognized COVID-19 symptoms. According to the New Mexico Department of Health, Symptoms are similar to adult symptoms (fever, cough, runny nose, shortness of breath, muscle aches, fatigue, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell). Children are also more likely to have abdominal symptoms such as vomiting or diarrhea, and somewhat less likely to have cough and shortness of breath.
- Cleaning of school building surfaces will be a larger focus with a more deep cleaning of the buildings will take place on Tuesday evenings and Fridays in-between each group of students 2 day attendance.
- Hand sanitizer, soap and added supplies will be available throughout each building for personal hygiene needs.
- Busses will be cleaned before and after each bus run and hand sanitizer will be available on each bus. Masks must also be worn on the bus. In order to maximize learning time, Wi-Fi access has been installed on busses district-wide.
- Space and processes will be designated in each school for persons exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 so that they can be isolated and then transported back to the home or hospital.
- Athletics is under the direction of the NMAA. We continue to notify parents and athletes about changes. Currently, Soccer and Football are moved to the spring of 2021 and all other fall sports are under review for a start date in the fall. Cheer and Dance are currently sideline only.
- School calendar and start date is currently being negotiated with the local union. The decision on a school calendar will be voted on soon by the Board of Education.
- Meals will be provided for all students Monday through Friday whether they are physically at school or at home. Meal pick-up locations for students at home during school days will be determined and sent out to parents. Please understand that due to GMCS needing to transport students to and from school on Monday through Thursdays that remote distribution may not be as extensive as it was during recent months.
- Internet access is limited in our communities and many companies are not able to provide reasonable service for our students. Please keep this in mind as you consider requesting an online/remote option.

Please email further questions you are having to us at: Parent.reopening@gmcs.org

We are utilizing these questions to create a GMCS webpage of "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)" so that parents can have quicker access to answers as we start school.